



## Puget Sound Regional Council

### Equity Advisory Committee | Remote Only

Date: Thursday, February 3, 2022 from 5:30-7:30 pm

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**1. Welcome, Roll Call and Icebreaker (5:30) – Charles Patton, PSRC**

**2. Reports**

- a. Meeting Summary for January 6, 2022\*
- b. EAC Member Report Out

**3. Discussion Item (5:45)**

- a. EAC Co-Chairs\* – Charles Patton, PSRC

**4. Discussion Item (6:00)**

- a. Equity Tracker – An Introduction to Engagement with the EAC\* – Brian Lee & Mary Richards, PSRC

**5. Discussion Item (6:45)**

- a. Regional Transportation Plan: Outreach and Equity\* – Kelly McGourty, Ben Bakkenta, & Jean Kim PSRC

**6. Next meeting: March 3, 2022**

**7. Adjourn (7:30)**

\*Supporting materials attached.

### Zoom Remote Connection Details

- To join the webinar, please click the following link: <https://psrc-org.zoom.us/j/81175412740?pwd=RUNLcTdKa2FMNDZtZXZlUFRNUK1p2QT09> and enter Passcode: 409072.
- To join by phone, call 833-548-0276 or 833-548-0282 and enter Webinar ID: 811 7541 2740 and Passcode: 409072.
- Sign language and communication material in alternate formats can be arranged given sufficient notice by calling (206) 464-7090 or TTY Relay 711.
- العربية | Arabic, 中文 | Chinese, Deutsch | German, Français | French, 한국어 | Korean, Русский | Russian, Español | Spanish, Tagalog, Tiếng việt | Vietnamese, visit <https://www.psrc.org/contact-center/language-assistance>.



## Puget Sound Regional Council

### **Equity Advisory Committee Meeting Summary**

**Date: January 6, 2022**

**Location: Remote Only**

**Presentations from the meeting are available on the PSRC website: <https://www.psrc.org/eac-meetings>. Audio recording of the meeting is available by request.**

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#### **Introductions & Welcome**

Charles Patton called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. He welcomed everyone to the second meeting of the Equity Advisory Committee, and asked Mikayla begin the roll call for attendance, and to identify if anyone was calling in on the phone. During the roll call, members responded to the icebreaker question, “As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?”

#### **EAC Co-Chairs and Draft Workplan**

Charles reminded the committee that at the December meeting, EAC members overwhelming chose to select their two co-chairs through an election, and the four members who expressed interest in the position are below:

- Brendan Nelson (he/him) | Pierce County
- Chris Stearns (he/him) | King County
- Lupe Valtierra-Prieto (she/her) | Snohomish County
- Shannon Turner (he/him) | Kitsap County

Charles also provided the committee additional details about their potential workplan for 2022.

You can view the presentation [here](#).

#### **Regional Transportation Plan and Project Selection Process**

Kelly McGourty briefed the committee on work to date, as well as opportunities to engage, on major transportation projects at PSRC. These key projects include the development of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and preparation for the 2022 project selection process for PSRC’s federal funds.

You can view the presentation [here](#).

## **Regional Housing Strategy – Feedback to the Executive Board**

Laura Benjamin followed up from the previous discussion at the December meeting, and continued to brief members on the Regional Housing Strategy at the January meeting. Members were asked for their feedback on equity-related components of the strategy.

You can view the presentation [here](#).

## **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

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## **Members Represented at the Table**

See attached attendance roster.

## **PSRC Staff and Other Guests Present**

Mikayla Svob, PSRC  
Charles Patton, PSRC  
Liz Underwood-Bultmann, PSRC  
Noah Boggess, PSRC  
Paul Inghram, PSRC  
Gil Cerise, PSRC  
Kelly McGourty, PSRC  
Richard Gelb, Public Health S/KC  
Peter Heffernan  
JMarie Johnson-Kola  
Jacqueline Reid, King County Local Services  
Gwen McCullough  
Marianne Seifert, Tacoma-Pierce Co. Health Dept.  
Michelle Zeidman, WSDOT-WSF  
Danielle Turner  
Eric Allen  
Marty Kooistra

**PSRC Equity Advisory Committee - Attendance Roster**

Jurisdiction	Member				
<b>King County</b>	Ben Sung Henry	1			
	Chris Stearns	1			
	Debbie Lacy	1			
	Hien "Elly" Trinh	1			
	Lalita Uppala (Oh-puh-la)	1			
	Lisa Espinosa	1			
	Megan Espinoza	1			
<b>Kitsap County</b>	Brenda Fantroy-Johnson	1			
	Jewel Shepard-Sampson	1			
	Shannon Turner	1			
<b>Pierce County</b>	Brendan Nelson	1			
	Dionne Bonner	1			
	Laurenne Sayles (Lore en)	1			
	Lucretia Robertson	1			
<b>Snohomish County</b>	Jason Smith	1			
	Lupe Valtierra-Prieto				
	Micah Lusignan (Mike ah)	1			
	Michelle Stewart	1			
	Mindy Woods	1			
<b>Total Members</b>	<b>Attended</b>	<b>18</b>			



# Puget Sound Regional Council

## DISCUSSION ITEM

February 3, 2022

**TO:** Equity Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Charles Patton, Program Manager, PSRC

**SUBJECT: EAC Co-Chairs**

## IN BRIEF

At its meeting on February 3, 2022, members will hear an update on the EAC co-chairs.

## DISCUSSION

During its meeting on December 2, 2021, EAC members were asked about their interest in serving a one-year term as a co-chair for the Committee. Five members expressed interest in this position. Additionally, members took a poll to determine how they would like to select the two co-chairs. The vast majority of members preferred to have an election. However, three of the five candidates decided to remove their name from the election due to personal and professional reasons. Consequently, the co-chairs of the EAC will be:

- **Chris Stearns** (he/him) | King County | City of Auburn
- **Shannon Turner** (he/him) | Kitsap County | NAACP

These co-chairs will be responsible for:

- Facilitating discussions
- Providing leadership (e.g., representing the committee at various board meetings, when necessary)
- Meeting preparation (e.g., participating in meeting dry runs)

## Next Steps

The next meeting of the Equity Advisory Committee will be held on March 3, 2022. Members will hear about PSRC's Inclusive Engagement Guide, a resource in the Regional Equity Strategy. Members will also have the opportunity to provide additional feedback on both the Regional Housing Strategy and the Regional Transportation Plan.

**Lead Staff**

For more information, please contact Charles Patton, Program Manager, at [cpatton@psrc.org](mailto:cpatton@psrc.org).



# Puget Sound Regional Council

## DISCUSSION ITEM

February 3, 2022

**TO:** Equity Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Brian H. Y. Lee, Ph.D., Program Manager

**SUBJECT: Equity Tracker – An Introduction to Engagement with the EAC**

## IN BRIEF

Data and Research is one of four pillars of the [Regional Equity Strategy](#)<sup>1</sup>. It includes technical tools and data resources to help PSRC more effectively incorporate equity into agency work as well as support jurisdictions, organizations, and the public in elevating equity in their pursuits. As part of this body of work, PSRC is developing an Equity Tracker that will help measure disparities between communities across different parts of people's lives, track performance over time in closing equity gaps, and publicly hold PSRC and its partners accountable in these efforts.

At the February meeting, PSRC staff will provide a briefing on the Equity Tracker project and ask the Equity Advisory Committee about how best to engage with the group on its development.

## DISCUSSION

The central Puget Sound region has a growing network of community leaders, local jurisdictions, non-governmental organizations, and public agencies who are working to advance racial equity and address social disparities. Through numerous engagements over years of collaborations, PSRC staff has repeatedly heard from many of these stakeholders about their need for more comprehensive technical support to help better examine, understand, and communicate key equity-related questions. They include:

- What are the disparities in life outcomes for different people?
- What progress is the region making in closing equity gaps?
- Are plans and policies in the region collectively working in the right direction?
- How can people hold PSRC and others accountable for their work?

These questions point to a need for better tools to comprehensively measure disparities and track performance in closing equity gaps. To those ends, PSRC is developing an

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<sup>1</sup> The four key component categories of PSRC's Regional Equity Strategy are A) Capacity Building, B) Data and Research, C) Community Engagement, and D) Best Practices.

Equity Tracker that will use a variety of data to paint a broad picture of wellbeing for people of different communities in our region. This public-facing set of tools and resources will track progress on relevant equity-related goals. It will also allow the public to hold PSRC and others accountable as we work towards a region where race no longer predicts life outcomes and people have improved choices in where they live and how they get around.

The Equity Tracker will complement a wide selection of existing technical tools and data resources. PSRC has a robust [Data Program](#) and a variety of [Equity Resources](#) that support agency work programs and help center equity in analyses for the development of regional plans and strategies (e.g., [VISION 2050](#), [Regional Transportation Plan](#), [Regional Economic Strategy](#), [Regional Housing Strategy](#)). Some Washington state departments, several county divisions and health authorities, and a few relatively well-resourced local cities with greater capacity have also developed equity-relevant data tools to support their work. There is, however, a lack of tools to comprehensively measure disparities and track equity progress across the region, particularly at the level of details needed to further support regional and local planning and policy development. As a significant undertaking within the Data and Research component of the [Regional Equity Strategy](#), the Equity Tracker will add to the suite of tools and resources available for elevating equity in agency work. Further, it will enhance PSRC's ability to provide technical assistance to members, stakeholders, and the public to use for their own equity objectives.

### ***What will be included in the Equity Tracker?***

The structure of the Equity Tracker will include three main components for each life outcome being measured and tracked: 1) data; 2) context, and 3) solutions.

- **Data:** The heart of the Equity Tracker will be data from trusted sources that are regularly updated and reliably available in suitable detail for analysis in the region. PSRC staff will use data that represent different life outcomes to measure disparities by race and ethnicity, plus other relevant traits such as age, disability, gender identity, and linguistic ability. The Equity Tracker will visualize the data in interactive ways, highlight notable patterns, make appropriate connections, and explain key findings in accessible ways for public consumption.
- **Context:** The data component will be preceded by regional context, which will include explanations of why different life outcomes are important indicators of people's wellbeing and how selected data can help provide insights on disparities. The context will also point toward root causes of equity gaps, touch upon factors that help exacerbate them, and make relevant connections to the legacy of structural racism.
- **Solutions:** Following the data component will be ideas for solutions. They will include available resources on tackling disparities in different life outcomes, examples of what communities in the region and in other parts of the country are doing to face different challenges, and prognosis of current regional efforts.



### ***What will be the uses of the Equity Tracker?***

PSRC staff aims to create and maintain a set of tools and resources in the Equity Tracker that will be useful and relevant over time for supporting a variety of planning and other related work programs. There will be two significant uses: 1) providing information (primary), and 2) sharing data (secondary).

- **Providing information:** The primary function of the Equity Tracker is a public display of regional performance outcomes across different parts of people's lives. This information could be leveraged by PSRC, members, community partners, and other stakeholders to support current and future equity-related pursuits.
- **Sharing data:** A secondary function will be to further support stakeholders by gathering, processing, and making a variety of regional and sub-regional data available. This will be particularly important for organizations and individuals in our region who may not have the capacity or technical expertise. This will also facilitate apples-to-apples comparisons for communities within our region, lead to resource sharing, allow learning from places that have made meaningful advances in racial equity, and provide opportunities to build on each other's successes in addressing social disparities.

To help accomplish these broad goals, PSRC staff will take an iterative approach and start with a bounded set of priorities for the initial version. We envision subsequent versions to include periodic improvements and the addition of more features and functionalities.

### ***What have been done to date?***

The Equity Tracker project started with brainstorming in the summer of 2020 and has been an in-house PSRC undertaking thus far. An internal stakeholder group was assembled in fall 2020 with representation from all planning areas and the data department. This group has convened monthly to provide guidance on work scope and plan, as well as feedback on progress. The project team has commenced the following foundational work:

- **Peer reviews:** Staff conducted a comprehensive review of equity-related data tools from across the country. We identified a large variety of data used and documented sources and various technical details. One key finding is that data tools for measuring disparities and tracking equity gaps appear most meaningful when they are directly tied to specific plans and policies.
- **Centering on VISION 2050:** The finding mentioned above from the peer reviews led to the centering of the Equity Tracker development work on [VISION 2050](#). This will allow PSRC to keep track on progress of regional policies the agency is implementing. The key policy areas in VISION 2050 (e.g., economy, housing, transportation) were adopted as themes for organizing data in the Equity Tracker. PSRC staff also identified equity-focused policies from each policy area to guide the selection of data to represent relevant life outcomes.
- **Data identification and review:** Based on the peer reviews, the project team identified more than 150 data candidates that could be used as indicators of people's wellbeing across all policy areas in VISION 2050. Staff created and used a technical rubric to evaluate each data candidate and scored them in how well they meet the qualities we are seeking. As part of the on-going

documentation work, we plan to publish a resource detailing the elements of the technical rubric, which data candidates were reviewed, and why some were kept for consideration while others were not.

- **Review with Subject Matter Experts:** Following the technical review of the data candidates, the project team worked with internal subject matter experts (i.e., staff leads in different work program areas) to conduct a second round of reviews based on planning and policy relevance. Additional considerations were given to the ease with which each data candidate can be communicated to and understood by the public.
- **Draft webpages and templates:** Using the economy policy area as an example theme in the Equity Tracker, the project team worked with internal information specialists, graphic designers, and webpage developers to create draft webpages. They include an overall home page for the Equity Tracker, a secondary home page for the economy theme, and some examples of data that measures economic disparities. These draft webpages will eventually serve as templates for the development of data measures across other policy areas.

## **Next Steps**

### ***What is the plan in 2022 for the Equity Tracker?***

Following the creation of draft webpages in fall 2021 for the economy theme, PSRC staff is continuing with data development work for other candidate indicators.

In February, the project team will introduce the Equity Tracker project to the Equity Advisory Committee and discuss with them how the group would like to engage in this work. (More details on this engagement are included in the next section.)

Upcoming project tasks include refining the draft webpage designs, establishing the templates based on the economy theme, and developing data and content materials (i.e., the context and solutions components) for other policy areas.

The PSRC website is being redesigned and the launch of the new site is expected in summer 2022. The Equity Tracker project will interact with this broad endeavor to help ensure compatibility between their designs and capabilities. The launch of the first version of the Equity Tracker will come after the launch of the new agency website.

### ***How to engage with the EAC?***

The purpose of the project team engaging with the EAC is to seek input on key elements of the Equity Tracker project. Relevant questions may include:

- What disparities and life outcomes are important to measure and what data should be prioritized or added? What policy context and solutions exist to complement the data?
- From a potential user perspective, how can the content be best presented, and a large amount of information be organized?
- What tools, resources, features, and formats are useful?

Some options for engagement between the project team and the EAC include:

- Examine the Equity Tracker in greater detail outside of regular EAC meetings to discuss data indicators, regional context, and policy solutions;
- Explore user experience with accessing and using the data tools and other resources in the Equity Tracker;
- Conduct surveys of options for various components of the Equity Tracker and email for feedback on specific materials;
- Provide periodic updates on progress; and
- Suggest an option that suits you.

Note that these options, particularly the first two, could be with the entire EAC group or a subgroup of members.

Another consideration in the engagement between the project team and the EAC concerns preferred methods of communication.

- Would members prefer communication consisting primarily of written summaries and links? Or,
- Would members prefer conversations, discussions, and walk-throughs?

### **Lead Staff**

For more information, please contact Brian H. Y. Lee, Ph.D., Program Manager, at [blee@psrc.org](mailto:blee@psrc.org), or Mary Richards, Assistant Planner, at [mrichards@psrc.org](mailto:mrichards@psrc.org).



# Puget Sound Regional Council

## **DISCUSSION ITEM**

February 3, 2022

**TO:** Equity Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Kelly McGourty, Director of Transportation Planning

**SUBJECT: Regional Transportation Plan: Outreach and Equity**

## **IN BRIEF**

At the meeting on January 6, 2022, the Equity Advisory Committee was given a briefing on the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and opportunities to engage in the coming months. The plan has been released for a public review and comment period which runs through February 28, 2022, and board action is scheduled for April. To follow up on these conversations, staff will provide additional details in February on two components of the plan – outreach activities and the evaluation of equity.

## **DISCUSSION**

Equity has been identified as a key policy focus area for development of the Regional Transportation Plan. Within this context, equity has been addressed both in terms of performance of the transportation system and addressing needs, but also in terms of outreach and engagement to historically marginalized and underrepresented communities.

Significant outreach has been conducted over the last two years, leading up to the release of the draft plan for public comment. Engagement activities have included a representative public survey reaching over 1,900 residents; 22 follow-up interviews with individuals in four languages; outreach to over 570 individuals on the needs of people with special transportation needs; engagement with over 50 middle and high school aged youth; and an online survey that yielded almost 1,400 responses. Five focus groups have also been held, reaching communities in all four counties within the region.

The draft Regional Transportation Plan includes a Regional Equity Analysis, providing an evaluation of the plan's performance and distribution of projects and benefits to people of color, people with low incomes, youth, older adults, people with disabilities and people with limited English proficiency. In addition, equity considerations are included throughout the plan document, for example related to access to transit, location of bicycle and pedestrian facilities, etc.

As part of the online open house for the draft plan public comment period, three public webinars will be held in early February. Targeted advertisements and social media posts will be made to reach historically underrepresented communities, as well as outreach to individuals who participated in the representative survey.

### **Next Steps**

At the February EAC meeting, staff will provide additional details on the outreach and engagement activities conducted for the draft plan, as well as the performance outcomes documented in the Regional Equity Analysis.

### **Lead Staff**

Contact Kelly McGourty, Director of Transportation Planning, at (206) 971-3601, [kmcgourty@psrc.org](mailto:kmcgourty@psrc.org); Ben Bakkenta, Director of Regional Planning, at (206) 971-3286, [bbakkenta@psrc.org](mailto:bbakkenta@psrc.org); and Jean Kim, Senior Planner, at (206) 971-3052, [jkim@psrc.org](mailto:jkim@psrc.org).